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September 18, 2003

Attn: TTB Notice No. 4
Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
P O Box 50221
Washington, D.C. 20091-0221

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you in support of the proposed rule by the Tax and Trade Bureau that defines the alcohol content to be 0.5% or less for flavored malt beverages to be classified as beer. This rule is consistent with the historical interpretation of what constitutes beer and other malt beverages that has been used for over two hundred years. Approval of the Tax and Trade Bureau's "0.5 by volume standard" would ensure the integrity of beer and the brewing process. Clearly showing the separation between beer and higher alcohol content beverages avoids costly and confusing disruptions in state licensing, taxation and distribution policies, any of which would deal a severe blow to beer wholesalers.

Bernie Little Distributors, Inc. encourages the Tax and Trade Bureau to approve to the proposed 0.5% standard on flavored malt beverages.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Askey
Sales Manager

BERNIE LITTLE DISTRIBUTORS, INC.

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